DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 473 835 FL 027 594

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TITLE	Explorations in Language Acquisition and Use: The Taipei Lectures.
ISBN	ISBN-0-325-00554-0
PUB DATE	2003-00-00
NOTE	111p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Heinemann, 361 Hanover Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801-3912 ($16). Tel: 603-431-7894; Tel: 800-225-5800 (Toll Free); Fax: 603-431-7840; Fax: 603-431-4971; Web site: http://www.heinemann.com.
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available From EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Adult Education; Cognitive Development; Elementary Secondary Education; Grammar; Higher Education; Learning Theories; *Linguistic Theory; *Reading Comprehension; Reading Motivation; Reading Skills; *Second Language Learning; Thinking Skills; Writing Skills

ABSTRACT

This book is based on a series of four lectures, presented at National Taipei University, Taiwan, which reviewed the fundamentals of second language acquisition theory, presented original research supporting the theory, offered counterarguments to criticisms, and explored new areas that appeared to have promise for progress in both theory and application. The four chapters are: (1) "Principles of Language Acquisition" (theory and applications); (2) "Free Voluntary Reading: Still a Very Good Idea" (e.g., research on free reading, light reading as a bridge, and motivating students to read); (3) "Current Issues and Controversies: Does Grammar Teaching Work? What About 'Comprehensible Output'?" (the role of grammar and comprehensible output); and (4) "How Reading and Writing Make You Smarter, or, How Smart People Read and Write" (e.g., how people get smart, research on learning by problem solving, reading and cognitive development, and writing and cognitive development). (Contains approximately 190 references.) (SM)

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